

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 STR-08 RSR-01

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TAGS: PFOR, OAS, VE

SUBJECT: OASGA - VIEWS ON KEY AGENDA ITEMS

REF: STATE 45844

SUMMARY: FONMINISTRY OFFICIAL MARTINEZ SAID VENEZUELA IS IN AGREEMENT WITH US THAT OASGA SHOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON WORLDWIDE MATTERS, AND SAID QUESTION OF ENHANCING RELEVANCE AND UTILITY OF OAS IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO GOV. HE FURNISHED SPECIFIC VENEZUELAN SUGGESTIONS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE OAS FUNCTIONING, AND SAID HE BELIEVES MEXICO, PERU, AND COLOMBIA ARE THINKING ALONG SAME LINES. GOV BACKS SYG PLAZA "ZERO INCREASE" PLAN FOR COUNTRY QUOTAS. MARTINEZ DOUBTS QUESTION OF CUBA WILL BE RESOLVED IN THIS OASGA. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF MARCH 15 DISCUSSED KEY OASGA AGENDA ITEMS AS INDICATED REFTEL WITH FONMINISTRY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY MARTINEZ. MARTINEZ EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS HIGHLY PLEASED US IS THINKING OF OASGA AS PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON WORLDWIDE MATTERS AND AS FORUM FOR COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION AND SAID THIS IS EXACTLY FRAMEWORK OF VENEZUELAN THINKING. HE ALSO SAID HE FULLY AGREES NOW IS TIME FOR OAS MEMBERS TO BEGIN PROCESS OF MAKING INTER- AMERICAN SYSTEM MORE RELEVANT.

2. HE SAID VENEZUELA'S OAS AMBASSADOR GARCIA BUSTILLOS HAS JUST COMPLETED THREE DAYS OF TALKS WITH FONMINISTER CALVANI AND OTHER OFFICIALS, AND THAT BROAD QUESTION OF HOW TO IMPROVE PERTINENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF OAS WAS MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. HE SAID PARENTHETICALLY THAT WILLIAM ROGERS ARTICLE IN LAST ISSUE OF VISION CONCERNING AN OAS WITHOUT US PRESENTS SOME VERY PROVOCATIVE IDEAS, THOUGH IT IS HARD TO ENVISION US AS CONTINUING TO CONTRIBUTE TO INTER- AMERICAN SYSTEM WITHOUT BEING ACTIVE MEMBER OF OAS.

3. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS PARA 7 REFTEL MARTINEZ SAID:

A. VENEZUELA WANTS TO SEE OAS MADE MORE RELEVANT IN A WORLD WHERE RECENT EVENTS HAVE CHANGED FOREIGN POLICY ATMOSPHERE GREATLY. IN PARTICULAR GOV BELIEVES OAS SHOULD BE CONCERNED WITH SUCH MATTERS AS US INITIATIVES WITH REGARD TO PRC AND USSR, EEC ACTIVITIES AND OTHER MATTERS OF WORLD IMPORTANCE. HE SAID LA NATIONS SHOULD BEGIN NOW, WHETHER CONCRETE CHANGES IN OAS ARE PROPOSED OR NOT, TO CONSIDER WAYS INTER- AMERICAN SYSTEM CAN BE MADE MORE WORLD- ORIENTED.

B. A NEW EMPHASIS ON WORLDWIDE PROBLEMS SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE PERMITTED TO DIMINISH OAS ROLE IN HEMISPHERIC DELIBERATIONS.

C. THERE SHOULD BE GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF " JURIDICAL EQUALITY" -- FOR INSTANCE ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES SHOULD HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS IN REPRESENTATION ON ALL OAS COUNCILS.

D. OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL SHOULD, WITHOUT DIMINISHING IMPORTANCE OF OTHER COUNCILS SUCH AS IA- ECOSOC, HAVE MORE POWER AND BEGIN TO PLAY DECISION- MAKING ROLE FOR ORGANIZATION.

3. " IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM" AND " PLURALIST SOLIDARITY", THEMES EMPHASIZED BY PRESIDENT CALDERA AND FONMINISTER CALVANI RECENTLY, SHOULD BE GUIDES TO DELIBERATIONS OF OAS.

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F. POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OAS SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE GREATLY DIMINISHED; HE CALLED SECRETARIAT " ALMOST A SEPARATE STATE".

G. ROLE OF CECLA SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED.

H. RESOLUTION OF BOGOTA WHICH EMERGED FROM LAST IA- ECOSOC MEETING SHOULD BE A KEY DOCUMENT IN FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND REST OF HEMISPHERE.

I. OAS BUREAUCRACY SHOULD BE GREATLY REDUCED. VENEZUELA STRONGLY SUPPORTS SYG PLAZA'S PLAN FOR " ZERO INCREASE" OF QUOTAS. AND IS IN AGREEMENT WITH ELIMINATION OF 69 OUT 1,200 POSITIONS (STATE 42629) BUT HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHAT TO PROPOSE AS DISPOSITION OF MONEY SAVED THEREBY.

4. MAR
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